GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1498
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
DECLARATION OF NATIONAL CALAMITY
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH;RAMANAND SINGH;TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the devastation caused by earthquake in Gujarat is a national calamity;

(b) the criteria fixed for declaring a calamity as National Calamity;

(c) the number of States affected by devastating earthquake of January 26, 2001;

(d) the amount of funds demanded by State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan from Union Government;

(e) the details of assistance provided to these States;

(f) whether the Government have declared recent Gujarat earthquake calamity as National Calamity; and
(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK))

(a) to (g): There is no executive or legal provision at present for declaring a natural calamity as a national calamity. One of the terms of the National Committee on DisasterManagement which has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is tolook into the parameters that define a national Calamity. The earthquake in Gujarat hasbeen treated as a calamity of extraordinarily severe intensity and Central Government has assisted the State Government accordingly with whatever help was necessary.

Colossal damage to life and property has been reported by the Government ofGujarat. There are no reports of damage to life and property from any other State.

The Government of Gujarat has demanded immediate Central assistance of Rs.8318.79 crore in the wake of earthquake. Assistance of Rs. 500 crore has been released. No Central assistance has been demanded by the Government of Rajasthan in this regard.